



# View from the Blackdown Hills

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Issue No 103 July 2013

## Blackdown Hills Marquee at The Honiton Show Thursday 1st August

see pages 10, 11, 12 & 13



## Health summit in Hemyock

A HEALTH summit is to be held in Hemyock to ensure that the The Blackdown Practice is providing services that match residents' needs.

GP Dr Stuart Murray and Karen Button, manager at the Blackdown Practice said: "In April this year all GP surgeries in England became members of clinical commis-

sioning groups (CCG). These are organisations that plan and buy health care services on behalf of patients.

"Your local Blackdown Practice is a member of the Northern, Eastern and Western Devon CCG.

"Health and social care are important issues for all of us. It is often when we or a family member or friend be-

come unwell that we realise the importance of being able to access the health and social care that we need.

"However, the health service is facing challenging times. Our population is ageing and the prevalence of many long term conditions is increasing.

"There is a need to make sure we get the best value for our health care, that services are designed to closely meet people's needs and that they are as close to home as possible.

"To make sure services match what local people need we are holding a health summit at the Blackdown Healthy Living Centre, Riverside, Hemyock, Cullompton, EX15 3SH, on Wednesday 10 July from 5:30pm.

"You will be asked for your thoughts as we want to involve you when deciding the future contracts for your local health services. Representatives from the CCG will explain a little more about what they do and what we all need to do.

"As an example, from October 2015 the CCG's contract with Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust to provide important community services, such as our district nursing and community physiotherapy service, is due for renewal. By the end of this year we need to decide exactly which services we want provided in the future and how they are to be run.

"We will be on hand to give a very local perspective and we are keen to hear from all of you, young or old, about how our health services can be designed and planned for you and the next generation, so please come along to the health summit.

"To book a place at the summit, please contact nicola.webber@nhs.net or 01392 356 129."

■ A BLACKDOWN cow's stunning looks have won a beauty contest. Bluegrass Sergeants Snow Queen, pictured, from Westcott Farm, Sheldon, won the The Collective Cow of the Year crown. It started when yoghurt maker The Collective announced a beauty contest for cows. Snow Queen's owner Mark Davis decided to enter and his beautiful cow made it to the six-strong field of finalists from 123 entries.

Snow Queen was chosen by a panel of judges and Mr Davis said: "She is honoured to be crowned Cow of the Year and intends to use her reign to encourage all cows to be proud of their good looks and to continue to produce wonderful milk. She also hopes to have some time to achieve world peace!"



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News from the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



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■ DETERMINED: Pete during a recent training ride

# Pete gets on his bike and heads to France

A DUNKESWELL man is off to France this month to cover the final ten stages of a world famous cycling race.

To mark the 100th anniversary of the Tour de France and his own 60th birthday Pete Barker aims to cycle the final ten stages of the 2013 race route the day before the professionals arrive.

His challenge totals 1,024 miles, and will fulfill a lifelong ambition.

Pete used to enter races about 30

by Anders Larsson

years ago, so he isn't a novice. His 60th birthday was on March 18th, and he said: "The routes are marked out the day before, so you only follow the markers."

"I've always wanted to ride a few stages of Tour de France."

Pete will be using his efforts to raise funds for two charities that are close to his heart - Afasic and the British Dyslexia Association. He has

chosen to support these charities because he has a grandson who has been affected by speech and language difficulties and associated problems with learning to read and write.

Afasic is a UK wide charity that supports children and their families who are affected by the hidden disability of speech,

language and communication impairments. The British Dyslexia Association (BDA) campaigns for a dyslexia friendly society where barriers to dyslexic people do not exist. The BDA works to ensure that ALL people with dyslexia fulfil their potential.

Pete explained: "These are two fantastic charities that help so many children who struggle to communicate. "I am pleased to be using this ride to help raise much needed funds for them, as well as awareness of language and reading difficulties."

"I hope that people will support my efforts on the bike."

Pete's wife Deborah is also in on the act and will be driving a camper to make sure he has access to refreshments and a place to saty.

They will leave for France on July 9th and you can sponsor Pete at <http://www.justgiving.com/100and60Tour> and/or <http://www.justgiving.com/100and60Tour4BDA> Once the challenge starts, his progress can be followed at <https://www.facebook.com/100and60Tour> or on Twitter @DHPeteBarker.



■ GLORY DAYS: Pete in his racing days about 30 years ago



## Villagers bid a fond farewell

THIRTY parishioners in Clayhidon attended a barbecue to bid farewell to their neighbours Sir Nigel and Lady Susie Essenhig. John and Nicola Bendle organised the barbecue to bid farewell to the couple who are leaving Cordwents in the village after 14 years to be nearer to their family in Hampshire. Sir Nigel is Deputy Lieutenant of Devon and is a former First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff.

## NEWS briefs

### Payhembury parties

PAYHEMBURY will host its very own party in the park event.

On Saturday, July 15th from 4pm there will be a whole host of activities to keep children and adults entertained with fun and games, "Payhembury's Got Talent", and live music from 7pm with headline band "Crosswired" at 9pm. There will also be a bar, raffle and bouncy castle.

Partygoers are invited to take along their own picnic or barbecue

Payhembury will also be welcoming 'A Taste of the Ritz' this month.

A special "posh" afternoon tea will be held at the parish hall and field on July 7th from 3pm to 5pm.

### Women's football

WELLINGTON ladies football team are recruiting new players ready for the start of the next season.

The team train every Wednesday night (from July 3rd) at Wellington Football Club, starting at 7pm.

Go along to find out more information.

### Woodland fair

FREE children's activities, local food and forestry demonstrations are all on the programme of this year's Blackdown Hills Woodland Fair on Saturday, July 6th at Park Farm near Wellington in Somerset.

There will be a large Forest School area where children can have a go at a range of free activities including fire lighting, den building and other bushcraft skills and there will be children's competitions running throughout the day including hunt the pine cone with a prize of a family day at Woodlanders Forest School, and woodland drawing with rosettes and art materials as prizes.

Other activities and displays on offer include a wide range of demonstrations such as wood carving and furniture making, tree surgery and pole climbing, fire lighting, chainsaw carving, horse logging, (with four horses this year), saws and machinery, bow and hurdle making, willow work and Cleft work.

The grown ups will also get the opportunity to try some activities including archery, green-wood-working and tree and pole climbing.

Local food and drink, including cider, apple juice, wood-fired pizzas, fresh bread, fresh meat, ice cream, and tea and cakes will be available all day. There will also be a range of wood products on offer from a wide range of stalls, from small craft stands to log cabins.

The Blackdown Hills Woodland Fair is open to the public from 10am. Under 16s get in free, while entry for adults costs £7.50 per person. There is free car parking and the fair will be signed on all major roads.



## View from the Blackdown Hills

is a community newspaper and welcomes contributions of news and photos from individuals, schools, organisations and businesses within the Blackdown Hills.

Please email your contributions to [lisa@pemedi.co.uk](mailto:lisa@pemedi.co.uk) [jackie@pemedi.co.uk](mailto:jackie@pemedi.co.uk) or [blackdown@tindlenews.co.uk](mailto:blackdown@tindlenews.co.uk)

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# Dunkeswell war memories are now available on touchscreens



■ OLD STORIES, NEW TECHNOLOGY: Hayley Doble and Vicki Harris with the Dunkeswell War Stories touch screen at the Aviator Cafe

A NEW website makes it possible to explore memories of the only US naval airbase on British soil during the Second World War.

Visitors to Dunkeswell War Stories will discover a collection of short films featuring 26 local people and four American veterans, combined with animation, photographs, music and 1940s-inspired artwork. There is also a memory bank for deeper research and a teachers' area developed with the help of staff and pupils at Broadhembury Primary School.

Dunkeswell War Stories was developed by the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership and produced by Dream Machine Media, thanks to a £39,600 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund plus other contributions.

Blackdown Hills AONB information officer Katherine Findlay said: "Unlike a conventional film, this collection of moving, funny, sad and fascinating stories can be navigated in many different ways.

"Some films focus on the friendships between American servicemen and local people, and how the airbase changed village life.

"Or for more technically-minded visitors there is the opportunity to learn about the aircraft and take a virtual walk-through a Liberator bomber.

"Other chapters look at the memories of evacuees, how farming changed, dances and boxing matches on the airbase, anti-submarine missions and many other aspects of life at Dunkeswell during this extraordinary period.

"The response from local people, American veterans, schoolchildren and local history groups has been phenomenal.

"There is an enormous amount of interest in the vital role Dunkeswell played in the Second World War and we are delighted to provide a resource which will help people all over the world to learn more about it."

You can find Dunkeswell War Stories at [www.dunkeswell-warstories.com](http://www.dunkeswell-warstories.com). It will also be permanently available on special touchscreens at Allhallows Museum in Honiton, and at the Aviator café on Dunkeswell airfield.

Additional funding came from Devon County Council, Dunkeswell Parish Council, a locality budget controlled by councillor Paul Diviani and the Blackdown Hills AONB Partnership itself.



■ VISITORS enjoy the Royal British Legion coffee morning

## RBL coffee morning raises £500

THE Buckland St Mary branch of the Royal British Legion held a coffee morning raising more than £500 for the charity.

Visitors flocked to the village hall throughout the morning to browse the stalls, enjoy tea and coffee and have a go on the raffle.

Hilary Cumming, branch member, said: "I would like to thank all who helped man the stalls, all who gave goods for the stalls and in particular, Angela Smith and Marion Board, who are not members of The Royal British Legion but who ran the kitchen.

"Grateful thanks must also be extended to the many companies, organisations and individuals who donated raffle prizes. Without the generosity of so many companies and individuals, the

event would not have been such a success."

The event raised £550 for the charity.

Mrs Cumming added: "Many folk are still under the impression that you need to have served as a member of the armed forces to become a member of The Royal British Legion. This is no longer a condition of membership. The Royal British Legion welcomes any person who wishes to join and support this wonderful cause. As a charity the legion works tirelessly to provide assistance, not only for injured personnel, but also supports the families of the young men and women who are still dying in the arena of warfare as they continue to fight to protect the British Isles from the ever present threat of terrorism."

## Last grants from Making It Local

A FUNDING initiative in the Blackdown Hills has made its final round of grants.

The Making It Local scheme has been providing grants to small businesses and organisations in the hills since 2009 and will end in December this year.

They have now allocated £2.4million to various projects during the last three years, helping more than 70 projects get off the ground.

The scheme's final round of funding attracted 16 initial project outlines, which resulted in nine applications for funding, of which seven were approved.

For more information about Making It Local visit [www.makingitlocal.org](http://www.makingitlocal.org)

## Blackdowns marquee at Honiton Show

THERE are just two pitches left in the Blackdown Hills marquee at Honiton Show on Thursday, August 1st.

Val Baker of the Blackdown Hills Business Association said: "Our marquee is almost full. If you would like to book a pitch either two metres for £96 or three metres for £130 please email me at [info@bhba.org.uk](mailto:info@bhba.org.uk).

We get over 7,000 visitors through our marquee, so the show offers your business an excellent shop window."

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# Local designer chosen for important wartime commemorative plaque

A KILMINGTON man was chosen to design a plaque commemorating a World War II incident in Dover, which could have had explosive and catastrophic consequences.

Designer Bob Farley has worked for major City and public organisations in a vast range of styles - and he was chosen by Kent Fire and Rescue Service to provide the plaque commemorating the 1940 drama.

On July 27th in 1940 the Luftwaffe attacked Dover harbour with a large force of Stuka dive-bombers protected by Messerschmitt fighters.

HMS Codrington, the destroyer which brought General Montgomery back from Dunkirk, was hit by an aerial torpedo. It broke her back and she sank next to the supply ship, HMS Sandhurst, which was also hit.

Two days later the harbour was attacked by 30 Stukas and 50 fighters.

Text and photos courtesy of Mike Harmer

HMS Sandhurst, which was full of torpedoes and munitions, was set ablaze. Pipes leading from huge fuel tanks in the cliffs were ruptured, setting alight oil on the water surrounding the two ships.

Dover Fire Brigade, then controlled by Dover Police, rushed to tackle the blaze. The deck plates were white hot but the torpedo warheads needed to be removed, so the firemen had to cut into the ship using oxy-acetylene.

A second attack began and they had to abandon the ship but volunteered to return. After a 12-hour struggle, the blaze was finally beaten.

HMS Sandhurst was badly damaged and required hull plates to be patched, but was later able to be towed to the Thames for repairs.

Three Dover firemen were awarded some of the very first George Medals, and six received King's Commendations for Brave Conduct.

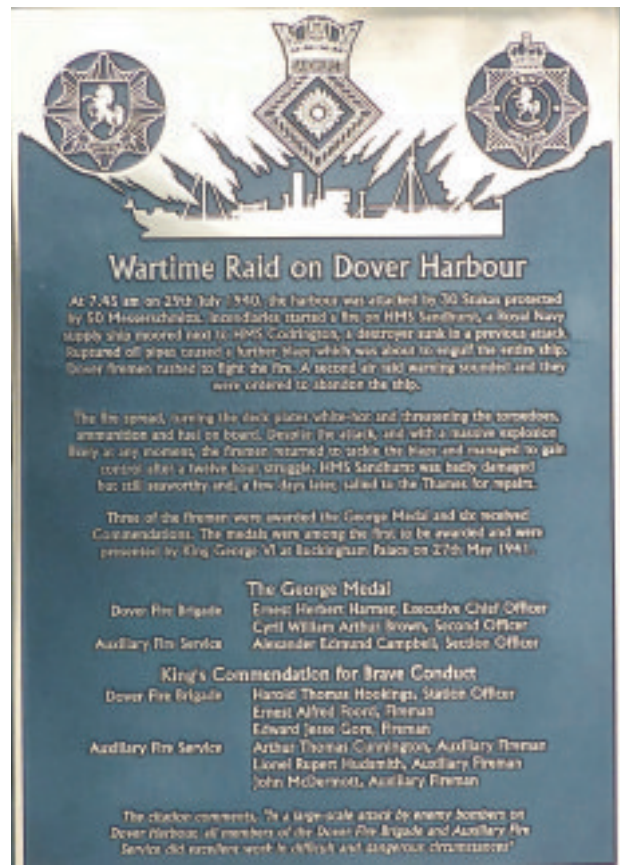
Bob's evocative design shows the profile of the ship lit up under attack, its Royal Navy crest and the badges of Kent fire and rescue and police services.

The plaque has been set into the wall of Dover Fire Station and a second plaque installed in the passenger terminal near where the incident took place.

Mr Farley recently produced a large collection of diagrams and illustrations for British Oaks, a detailed guide written by Michael Tyler. He's a keen walker and his wife, Jan, is also a designer and artist. Both of them attended the plaque unveiling in Dover.



**SAFE HANDS:** Bob Farley is an experienced designer and, below the end product - the plaque was recently unveiled in Dover



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# Music day in Dalwood

THERE will be something for all tastes at Dalwood Music Day which takes place on Saturday July 6th, starting at midday and continuing until 10.30pm in three venues around the village - Dalwood Village Hall, St. Peter's Church and the function room of the Tucker's Arms

Toe-tapping jazz will kick off the event with Clive Smith's Arcadia Jazz Band in the Village Hall from midday to 2.30 pm.

There will be classical, folk and popular music performed by talented local musicians and singers in St Peter's Church from 1.15 - 7pm

Meanwhile popular songs, ballads, jazz standards and folk will be on offer in the

Tucker's Arms from 12.45pm to 7pm

In the evening Kroft Originals, Fliss Gorst and Richard Llewellyn will be followed by Three Counties' Swing Band in the Village Hall from 7.30pm to 10.30pm, while Devonbird and Trefellas Folk Group will be in the Tuckers from 7.30 - 10.15pm

There will be bars, refreshments and a barbecue on offer in the village.

The event is not a fundraiser but if there is a profit it will be used to fund a future music festival.

For tickets call Kathy on 01404 881601, call into the village shop or log onto [www.dalwoodvillage.co.uk/tickets.php](http://www.dalwoodvillage.co.uk/tickets.php)

# Look on the bright side of life

THE Blackdown Healthy Living Centre is starting a new venture called The Brightside Club, the aims of which are to reach out to those 'young at heart' members of our community, who need help and support to socialise and 'live life to the full'.

Anybody who feels a little cut off, who has been dealt a blow that is a struggle to cope with, who needs motivation to enjoy life or who just needs to revisit their 'bright side' will find like-minded friends, support, interesting, fun activities and en-

joyable days out.

The first get together will take place on Friday, August 2nd at the

Blackdown Healthy Living Centre with coffee and a bacon buttie at 10.30pm followed by a short mystery coach trip and noon ending with a cream tea.

To book a place or find out more please contact Janet Elworthy,

Blackdown Healthy Living Centre, Riverside, Hemyock, telephone 01823 680117 or email [Janet@bhlc.org.uk](mailto:Janet@bhlc.org.uk)

Transport can be arranged.

# Transition: caring for creation

AT their recent meeting The Blackdown Hills Transition Group held an interesting discussion with a representative of the Exeter Diocese of the Church of England.

Chairman Jim Rogan said: "This confirmed for me that the Transition Group-Movement is not just a concern of a small group of cranks but a real concern for all who hold values and beliefs based on caring for others."

"The ideas are presented by Operation Noah which is an ecumenical Christian Charity to 'provide leadership, focus and inspiration in response to the growing threat of catastrophic climate change'."

"The thrust of the argument is how to balance our energy and material consumption with the needs of the poorest communities, future generations and other species all of which are God's concern and creation."

Operation Noah ([operationnoah.org](http://operationnoah.org)) highlights a number of actions and issues to consider:

1. Find joy in creation.
2. Listen to scientists, the equivalent modern day prophets
3. Repent, if we continue to pollute the

earth we fail to love it, our neighbours and ourselves.

4. Take responsibility, the earth is a gift of God's love. We are unique in history in understanding the damage and harm we are doing

5. Seek justice, instead of the drive for limitless consumption of the world's resources in competition with other nations, based on exploitative interest and debt for economic growth

6. Love they neighbour, by reducing our personal consumption in order to assist those less fortunate

7. Act with hope, despite the strong possibility of serious effects of global warming, it is not a time to despair, but a time to experience a God of hope for the future."

The next meeting of the group will be Wednesday, July 24th at Neil and Kathy Arnold's home - Lodge House, Buckland St Mary, TA20 3TA

Anyone who would like to meet with others with a concern for local resilience to meet the challenges of climate change and energy depletion is welcome to join in or contact the website [www.blackdownhillstransition.org](http://www.blackdownhillstransition.org)

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## Blackdowns clubs and societies

### BISHOPSWOOD LADIES

INSTEAD of the usual meeting in June members met for a social evening at the home of Rosemary Ward-Smith, this year blessed with glorious late sunshine, in which to admire the wonderful garden. A selection of salads and delectable puddings eaten on the terrace, and the congenial company, made for a happy holiday atmosphere and the animated conversation, which lasted throughout the evening.

Tricia Taylor thanked the committee for arranging the evening and Rosemary Ward-Smith for making available her lovely home.

Tricia mentioned that the past month's activities had included a walk around Stockland for the rambling group, which had ended at Royal Oak Farm, where tea and a selection of delicious cakes were enjoyed by all.

Next month there will be a change from the a normal meeting or the pleasures of the table with an afternoon visit to the Allhallows Museum of Lace and Antiquities.

This follows on from last October's talk by Pat Permyan on The History of Honiton Lace.



### HEMYOCK WI

THE June Meeting was held in Forbes Lounge with president Lyn Taylor welcoming members.

Members were reminded that the money for tickets to see "Annie Get Your Gun" at Torquay on June 29th was due. There are a few seats still available.

Members agreed to support the church fair on July 13th and also to hold a sausage and mash event in the Autumn to help raise money to provide a bursary to help with the cost of a course at the WI Denman College.

Lyn welcome Paula Hullett who came from Tiverton to talk about her work as fundraiser for Children's Hospice South West.

This was a most informative and inspiring evening.

So much love and support is given to families at three venues. Little Bridge House is in Barnstaple, Little Harbour is in St Austell and Charlton Farm is near Bristol.



Paula chose president Lyn's photo as winner of the competition and the flower of the month was tied between Wendy Grabham and Sue Hollow.

There was time left for a most competitive yet enjoyable quiz.

Members formed three teams and came up with some ingenious answers which were not always correct!

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, July 2nd at 7.30pm when there will be a talk on Fused Glass Jewellery by Margaret Harper.

The competition will be for the most glamorous necklace.

Visitors will be made very welcome.

### SAMPFORD ARUNDEL WI

A GARDEN built with loving care, meticulously planned to give tranquil and interesting views and peace and harmony was brought to Sampford Arundel village hall by Roger Stoakley for the WI's meeting, with the help of beautiful photos, calming music and readings.

He also described the history of garden making, and how they have always served basic human needs for security and shelter. It was a lovely presentation.

Tranquility was the last concern for the members with all that is going on. A festive lunch for a Devon WI was planned for the

next day and a Somerset garden party the day after.

The "craft-with-a-laugh" day had been greatly enjoyed with various projects towards being finished over tea, cake and natterings.

The painting day has been planned, and there are a few seats available for the theatre trip.

The group come 2nd in skittles, but will live to fight another day. Members were off on a tour of Hinkley Point shortly.

The Wrangway sheep are all set to have a refurb (that's the willow ones, in case you were wondering). And about willows, a walk planned to the willow cathedral in Au-

gust, followed by a meal, of course.

Next month, members from a Devon ladies' group would be joining members - better have some cakes again, then.

There was a run down on the National AGM, with speakers including Gryff Reece Jones and John Humphries, and the news that it was resolved the WI nationally would enliven and enhance our town centres to make them a joy to shop, work, live and play in.

The village hall committee is hoping for a grant to upgrade its facilities, and last but not least, cakes and exhibits (not essential to win, just put something in!!) for the Fete and Flower Show on July 20th.

## Volunteering is rewarding

by Lisa Bright

A NATIONAL Trust property on the edge of the Blackdown Hills is appealing for more volunteers to help with the upkeep of the Victorian country house.

Knightshayes Court, near Tiverton, was built by Sir John Heathcoat Amory, grandson of John Heathcoat, creator of the mechanised bobbin lace making machine. Building began in 1869 but work didn't finish until 1873.

Now run by the National Trust, a lot of effort goes into keeping the house and grounds looking it's best, most of which is carried out by volunteers.

Alice Morgan-Brown, Visitor Services Manager for the National Trust at Knightshayes, talks about the perks of volunteering.

She said: "Chances are, when you visit a National Trust property, the people you'll remember are volunteers. That might seem very surprising to you, but not for us. We know that without our volunteers, the National Trust would cease to exist, and we currently have more than 67,000 volunteers spending their time on thousands of different projects across the country."

"At Knightshayes, we have volunteers working across the board, in all departments, inside and out. We have volunteer buggy drivers, carpenters, admin assistants, gardeners, room guides, conservation assistants, clock winders and marketing assistants, so there's pretty much something to suit every skill."

Mrs Morgan-Brown said the area that requires the most volunteers is generally the house - as they need at least eight volunteer room guides a day on varying shifts to be able to open to the public.

"Room guides are normally those that leave the most lasting impression on our visitors," she said. "Acting as a point of information in each room, we rely on them to help bring the history of this beautiful house to life. It's a hugely diverse and exciting role for them, as you never know what you're going to get

from one day to the next - from groups of foreign language students to members of the donor family."

Knightshayes attracts volunteers from all over Devon, with many travelling from villages and towns in the Blackdown Hills, including Uffculme, Wellington and Culmstock.

Mrs Morgan-Brown said volunteering is more than just helping keep Knightshayes looking its best, it provides people with the opportunity to make new friends.

She said: "Volunteering gives people the chance to socialise too. People come to us to volunteer for a huge variety of reasons, from rehabilitation, to gaining valuable work experience and confidence in a busy heritage environment and we offer them a safe and friendly environment to do that."

She added: "Changes in the times have seen fewer and fewer people coming forward to volunteer. We know this is for a number of reasons, including the fact that many people are retiring later in life, impacting on the traditional National Trust volunteer base."

"That said, there is a place for everyone at Knightshayes, whatever their age or background, and we're changing our volunteer experience to make it more flexible, so we can adapt to meet the needs of the people who come forward to help us."

"It is of no doubt to me that volunteers are vital to the work we do, and I wouldn't trade ours in for anything. Their experience, knowledge, willingness to help and good humour is what gets us through most days here, and there's always room for more - do you think you could help?"

If you're interested in volunteering, please call Mrs Morgan-Brown on 01884 235763 or email [alice.morgan-brown@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:alice.morgan-brown@nationaltrust.org.uk).

Email your WI or club reports to [lisa@pemedial.co.uk](mailto:lisa@pemedial.co.uk) for inclusion in the View From the Blackdown Hills

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# Working our Woodlands

with John Greenshields

## Woodland birds

I was reading an article the other day about how there was decline of our woodland birds in unmanaged woodland, this has happened since the last war.

The recent high profile given to farmland habitats and species on and in farmland has over shadowed the potential from managed woodlands.

Recently there has been more interest in woodland wildlife, an important incentive for the periodic thinning, coppicing and other management, that will encourage structural diversity and improved habitat for all woodland wildlife. There is also the growing need for wood fuel in all its forms, I have noticed a big difference in song bird numbers in managed and unmanaged woods. For instance, Blackcap, Marsh Tit, and Willow Warblers all are much more evident in a well managed wood, this is due, I am convinced, by the rotation of age and structure that benefits a wide range of species.

When I was a kid, my mates and I would spend hours in the woods on the farm, making dens, cooking baked beans in a can, climbing, playing cowboys and indians and watching and learning about the wildlife. Today we have become afraid of allowing our kids into the woods. I know its part of our society now but is a shame. Three of us were in another wood outside the farm one day, I suppose we were around 10ish, when a man came up to us and started talking to us about his own childhood, he looked un-

well and frail probable in his 40's. He had been in the war at the D Day landing and was injured, although we were told not to speak to strangers and we were a little frightened, but we were fascinated with his stories. He left after a half hour or so and thanked us for listening to him, we heard three days later he had died from the wounds he sustained in the war, he had left us his collection of wild bird books, some of which I still use now!

## 1,800 lichen species

Now I am no expert when it comes to Lichens and can only just tell the difference between bubble gum and common orange lichens.

But what I do know is that they are an indicator of a healthy woodland, with different species able to tolerate different levels of pollu-

tants such as ammonia, oxides and sulphur dioxide.

What I did not know is that there are more than 1,800 species in the UK, that's more than the number of flowering plants.

I also did not know that Harris Tweed still is coloured with native lichen dyes which gives it that distinctive odour and colour, the names are easy to remember as they are descriptions of that type of lichen, like "squiggly" and "green satin".

This year's Woodland fair will probably be over (or not) by the time you are reading this, and I do hope we have good weather for it, as so many people have already given up their precious time to help it run smoothly.

My usual contacts are 01823660764 parkfarm@tinyon-line.co.uk.



■ A LICHEN covered bridge

# Charlotte dreams of being Teen Queen

TEENAGER Charlotte Colvin, from Buckland St Mary, has been selected by judges for the Teen Queen UK competition to go forward to the next round.

Now in year eight at Bishop Fox's School in Taunton, she attended Buckland St Mary Church of England Primary School, where she was the only girl in her year from a group of five pupils.

She is a girl of many talents and interests, from her academic work to music, drama, swimming and performing with the Chard Local Kids Society from the age of eight.

Teen Queen UK was launched in December 2006 at The Clothes Show Live, at the NEC, Birmingham.

It enables girls from all walks of life and backgrounds the chance to give the exciting world of modelling a go and



■ CHANCE TO SHINE: Charlotte Colvin hoping to get a modelling break

gives them the opportunity to take part in a professional photo-shoot at a top London studio.

With a renowned team of top stylists and pho-

tographers and all attention on the girls, it is a once in a lifetime chance that most can only dream about.

The competition is split

into two categories, Teen Queen is for girls aged 16 - 19, the lucky girl crowned Miss Teen Queen 2013 will be given the opportunity to go to an international pageant where she will represent her country.

All entrants are encouraged to understand the importance of supporting charities and during the winner's reigning year, they will be encouraged to help raise awareness and money for The Madventurer Foundation and Allambie Orphanage in Ghana.

Charlotte Said: "Teen Queen UK has been an amazing experience so far. I hope this experience continues and I get through to the final."

The top two girls with the most votes from each of the two age groups (12-15 Teen Queen One and 16-19 Teen Queen Two) will go through to the live finals of the 2013 competition.

# Celebrating Buddhism in the Blackdowns

A BUDDHISM festival comes to the Blackdown Hills this month.

Buddhfield 2013 will take place at Culmhead and will see a full programme of activities including the teaching, discussion and study of Buddhism and meditation in the

Dharma Parlour and Meditation Space. Among the workshops and activities on offer is Yoga, Tai Chi, Chi Gung, massage and other treatments.

The theme this year is "Fire and Heart" with festivalgoers encour-

aged to wear red and join in the public rituals.

The Buddhfield festival will take place between July 17th and July 21st.

For more information visit [www.buddhfield.com](http://www.buddhfield.com).

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# May Day fun at Awliscombe primary school

AWLISCOMBE Primary school once again held its annual May Day celebrations on Wednesday, May 22nd.

The music played, the children danced and the sun shone and the event was enjoyed by all.

The May King and Queen (Ellis and Isabel) opened the celebrations by being crowned by invited guests, Val Maynard and her daughter Jayne Collier.

Jayne was once a May Queen at Awliscombe herself.

The children dressed in traditional Victorian clothes and danced May Day dances around the maypole, including the Spider's Web and the Barber's Pole.

Cream teas were served during the afternoon by the school PTFA for parents, friends and family to enjoy.

A spokesperson for the school said: "The afternoon was a complete success and everyone seemed to have a lovely time."

"We finished the afternoon with everyone joining together to dance the Blaydon Races."



## School opens nursery to nurture young 'cygnets'

■ A NEW nursery has opened in the village of Awliscombe, near Honiton.

Awliscombe Primary school is pleased to announce the opening of its nursery Cygnets.

Cygnets accepts children from the age of three-years-old.

A spokesperson for the nursery said: "The aim of the nursery is to nurture our 'cygnets' into confident learners, whilst preparing them for starting school."

The school has a purpose built foundation stage teaching unit, which will make the transition from nursery to school easier for the children.

Cygnets is led by Mrs Snell, a fully qualified Nursery Practitioner, working alongside Mrs Clark, the school's foundation stage teacher.

The Cugnets nursey is also able to offer a before school club every school day from 8am to 9am.

For more information and to arrange a visit phone 01404 42031.

Pictured is one young cygnet enjoying gardening at the nursery



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# Blackdown Hills Marquee

## *at The Honiton Show Thursday 1st August*



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**01297 35750**



▲ 6,000 visitors through the Blackdown Hills marquee at the Honiton Show in August 2012

## Goodlife Gardeners are 'First timers' in the Blackdown Hills Tent at the Honiton Show this year.

The Family run company of husband and wife team Rob and Shelley have been in business for 11 years. They now have a team of 8 professional gardeners and landscapers working in and around East Devon.

Professional gardening is at the core of their very successful company, covering all aspects of gardening with their team members specialising in different aspects; From fencing, herbaceous borders, kitchen gardens, lawn

care, through to tree surgery and design. They also supply plants, shrubs and trees at very competitive prices.

They have recently expanded their Landscaping team with the exciting new addition of Howard Laker who leads the landscaping team. Howard is a professional landscaper and brought with him a wealth of expertise and experience. His attention to detail and quality finishes are second to none and he

has been a tremendous asset to the team.

The Blackdown Hills Tent is where to find them at the Honiton Show where they will have a display of their landscaping skills and gardening prowess. Both Rob and Shelley are very excited to be exhibiting at the show this year and are looking forward to meeting both new and existing customers there.

So why not join them and see what difference they could make to your garden?



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# Blackdown Hills Marquee

## *at The Honiton Show Thursday 1st August*



▲ **Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty**

### Blackdown Hills Business Association

**LOCAL** businesses, craftsmen and women offering unique products and services, come together in our marquee for Blackdown Hills businesses and supporters, in an array of exhibits and activities giving you a unique experience at the Honiton Show this year. Once again we will show case rural crafts in front of the marquee. There will be a range of local craftsmen and women offering children's activities and demonstrations throughout the day. This will include demonstrations by Wildside Experience, Blackdown Hills Woodland Association, Yarak Birds of Prey, Escot Gardens and Camp Wild. Oilwarm burner products will be showing a refurbished range cooker using their Electrickit showing the advantages to converting to electricity. The Blackdown Hills Hedge Association will also demonstrate crafts and techniques as well as providing details of their organisation. The Blackdown Hills marquee offers a diverse range of local interest organisations and businesses offering unique products and services from the area.

### David Ball Furniture Restoration

## Give your antique furniture a treat

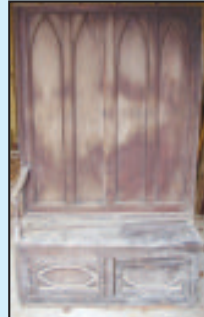
**IN THE** heart of the Blackdowns is an artisan who specialises in the restoration of antique furniture. David Ball, of David Ball Furniture Restoration, has restored over 1000 pieces of furniture for his 400 customers. "People entrust me with their family heirlooms, often of great sentimental value, and they like the idea of putting them in the care of a good local restorer," he said. A good example is the before and after photo of an unusual settle made from cherry wood grown in Hemyock nearly 200 years ago.

He undertakes restoration for private individuals and, at local auctions, will search for particular pieces to buy and restore for customers and for resale. His services include free verbal estimates, and antique furniture restoration using traditional methods and materials throughout. This covers veneering, French polishing, staining, waxing, fittings and glues, as well as cane, rush and seagrass seating.

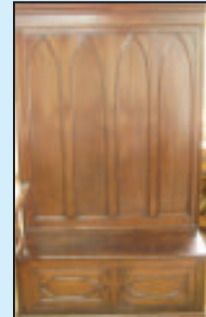
"I love my work, and my aim is to make sure that your experience as my customer is good enough for you to recommend me to others," said David.

If you have antique furniture that is bent, blistered, broken or cracked; dirty, scratched, scuffed, split, stained, twisted, warped, wobbly or worm-eaten; or even has bits missing, bodged repairs (7 nails & screws in one joint is the record so far!), lifted veneer or loose joints, then David would welcome the opportunity to restore it for you.

For further information please contact David Ball on 01823 680607 / 07962 401408 or email dcb132@btinternet.com or see his website at [www.dbfr.co.uk](http://www.dbfr.co.uk)



▲ Before



▲ After

### DAVID BALL FURNITURE RESTORATION



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**Blackdown Hills  
Business Association**

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on Thursday, 4th July (4.30pm for golf, 6.30pm barbecue)  
You are welcome, if you need tuition as a beginner or  
just want to brush up on your technique.  
Members pay £18.50 (includes barbecue and tuition).

Businesses are invited to our  
**Tourism Coffee Morning**  
on Tuesday, 9th July, 10.30am  
hosted this month by Lucinda McAlpine  
at Bowhayes Farm, Culmstock.

Both events are for members only and you will need to pre-book.

The BHBA will be hosting the  
**Blackdown Hills Marquee at Honiton Show**  
on Thursday 1st August  
*Come and see us at the show!*

### Join the Blackdown Hills Business Association in 2013

We have been supporting businesses for over 30 years

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# Blackdown Hills Marquee

## *at The Honiton Show Thursday 1st August*



### Eco Green Energy

## Chop don't chip!!!

WITH the ever increasing cost of energy we look for alternative ways to heat our homes and thus move away from the big energy companies, reduce the cost of our energy bill, and basically become more self sufficient. Living in the Blackdown Hills we are in the ideal location to do exactly this.

With all of the fantastic woodland and hedgerows which surround us there is an abundance of material that can be used. The trouble is, knowing how to go about using this wood to heat our homes in a sustainable way without stripping the natural beauty that surrounds us. Throughout the Blackdowns, woodlands and hedgerows are maintained and managed by the various landowners. When trees are felled and the hedgerows laid or cut back, the large wood that comes out of the process is cut up into logs for burning in the home. However, the smaller wood, less than 3 inches diameter, tends to get piled up and either burned in the field or chipped and used as mulch.

Much of the wood that comes out of the hedgerows is hardwood such as Ash, Oak, Hazel, Blackthorn and Beech. Eco Green Energy is a small family run business, based right in the centre of the Blackdown Hills, who specialise in the supply and installation of log burning boilers. As a spin off of these boilers Eco Green Energy has a piece of equipment called a "Wood Crusher", we call it a Wood Chopper, which we hire out. This wood crusher actually chops any wood, which has a diameter of up to 80mm (3 inches), into small chunks with a length of 50mm – 100mm. As the machine chops the wood the chopped wood falls into net bags which are hung on the back of the machine. Once the bag is full it is manually removed, then stacked and stored in a dry place. After a short period of drying out, it is then ready for burning in any fire including open fires, wood burning stoves, range cookers, log burning boilers and even BBQs and patio heaters. Contact Eco Green Energy for more details.



▲ Blue skies and mud at the Honiton Show in August 2012

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I will be exhibiting at this years 'Honiton Show' so if, like me, you are passionate about the use of solid timber (and English where possible) come and have a chat.

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# Blackdown Hills Marquee

## *at The Honiton Show Thursday 1st August*



## The 123rd Honiton Agricultural Show takes place on Thursday 1st August 2013



**THE** Grand Parade is one of the many highlights of the main ring activities where the day's livestock winners proudly parade.

The 2013 main ring will be a hive of activity with fantastic acts such as the Squibb Freestyle Stunt Show a spectacular motocross show performed by triple winning British FMX rider Jamie Squibb with phenomenal tricks. We are delighted to welcome back the Ridgeside Lurcher Display Team, a superb act where lurchers will race at full speed chasing the electric lure together with an informative and humorous commentary by Phill Gibbons. Public participation is welcomed and the offer to compete with your own dogs whatever their breed! The highlight of this brilliant act is a race between lurchers and a hawk – a spectacle not to be missed. Honiton are delighted to announce a new event for the main ring Eagle Heights Eagle and Vulture Display. Watch in amazement as "Kayla" the Bald Eagle soars above the crowd and you'll be very amused to watch "Posh" and "Becks" the white-backed Vultures gallop across the main ring. There is also the beautiful Barn Owl who floats majestically amongst the crowds.

The lower field incorporates all that is countryside with hurdle making, ferret racing, a blacksmiths guild and a trip down memory lane with a vintage tractor section with over 100 vehicles on display.

Honiton plays host to the West of England Hound

Show, a show within a show, which attracts a huge following countrywide. There is the wonderful dog show comprising both pedigree and fun classes for the pet pooch. If chickens are your interest we have a fantastic Poultry show and sale. Come and meet two fascinating Otters, Belinda and Rudi and learn all about them from their enthusiastic owner Daphne Neville. We have new entertainment for children with Professor Twistopher's Punch and Judy, as seen on the hugely popular and wildly acclaimed television series Downton Abbey. With over 400 trade stands, including crafts, shopping and a fabulous food hall there really is something for everyone. We have a huge and diverse range of food courts to tickle your taste buds with local caterers offering the very best produce; why not start with a delicious bacon roll and end the day with a refreshing Pimms from local Otter Brewery. Honiton prides itself on being a truly traditional agricultural show with a unique atmosphere it brings new and traditional agriculture together so make a note in the diary, 1st August, we all look forward to welcoming you. Don't forget accompanied under 16's are free. Make savings and purchase your advance tickets now for just £12.50 per adult for a whole day of entertainment. For further details on the show or details on becoming a member of the Association with all its benefits please contact the secretary on 01404 41794 or visit the website [www.honitonshow.co.uk](http://www.honitonshow.co.uk).

# Honiton Agricultural Show



## Thursday 1st August 2013

MAIN RING ACTS SO FAR...

- Squibb Freestyle Stunt Show
- Ridgeside Lurcher Display
- Eagle Heights Vulture Display
- Grand Parade of Livestock
- Alpacas, Cattle, Horses & Sheep Classes

- DONKEY RIDES • VINTAGE TRACTORS
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# LeisureReview

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## Curtis & Sons contribute to cultivating the future

LOCAL firm H Curtis & Sons from Wellington will be focusing attention on their state-of-the-art Vicon mounted spraying equipment when they take part in the Farm Demonstrations at the Mid Devon Show on Saturday 27th July.

Mark Lyes, depot manager from H Curtis & Sons commented: "The Mid

Devon Show attracts visitors both locally and from further afield so it is important for a company like ours to be there showing what machinery and service we can offer the local agricultural industry.

"On display will be products from Valtra, Mashio, Teagle, NC, Twose and a Vicon 24m sprayer will operating at the demonstration area.

Refreshments will be available on the stand and the H Curtis and Sons team look forward to meeting customers old and new on the day".

Chariots of Fire and a dressage display by Mid Devon's Paralympic contender, Edward Chanin, will perform in the main ring as part of an exciting action packed programme designed to keep visitors riveted to their seats.

Top class livestock from the most respected breeders in the West Country will be out in force with cattle, sheep, pigs and pygmy goats.

The 'Widcombe Wag,' Tony Beard, will be performing as part of a comprehensive programme planned in the music and dance Pavilion.

The lively countryside arena will host ferret racing, falconry displays, gun dogs, archery, birds of prey, bees, gun safety, shooting, fishing, fly tying

and Devon Wildfowlers. Wimbleball Lake will have a windsurfing simulator to try out.

Modern machinery and heavy horse teams will feature in the exclusive farm demonstrations including vintage farm machinery supporting the 2013 show theme 'Cultivating The Future'.

'State of the art' machinery will include Massey Ferguson, John Deere, Case, McCormick and Claas tractors, sprayers and a re-seeding machine amongst many more from local firms including MST Ltd, James Pryce Tractors, Masons Kings, H. Curtis & Sons, Hamblys, Colin Burnell (Maxiscrape

South West) and Paul Munnery with remote controlled Unmanned Ground Vehicles. Also a Sumo Grassland Subsoiler from Compass Tractors.

Advance tickets at the reduced rate of £12 adults or £4 child are available at the Tourist Information Centre and Stags in Wellington and online at

[www.middevonshow.co.uk](http://www.middevonshow.co.uk)  
For more information,

contact the show organiser,  
on 01884 242486.



YOUNG HANDLERS: At the Mid Devon Show



**MID DEVON SHOW**  
**Saturday 27 July 2013**  
Hartnoll Farm, Post Hill,  
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Chariots of Fire Display Team  
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Crafts, Music & Dance Pavilion, Farm Demos,  
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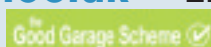
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**Meadow Lakes**

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Taunton Sales  
01823 283706

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## Living, selling property and thoroughly enjoying the **Blackdown Hills**

If you are considering selling or having difficulty finding a buyer contact me on **01823 283706** and I will be delighted to discuss your ideas and explain how I can assist in your future plans.

In 1988 I set up Rodgers Estate Agents having been a partner of a family run agency business which was sold to Hogg Robinson, covering Middlesex and Hertfordshire and areas of west London. This was great experience as the London markets are fast moving and competitive. Rodgers Estate Agents cover sales and lettings in Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire, Middlesex and now Somerset.

In 2003 I moved from Buckinghamshire to Somerset with my family to Culmhead. Our children all enjoyed their education in Taunton before heading to university and into the workplace. They visit us regularly as they love life in 'The Blackdowns'.

With 30 years of experience I now offer you an agency specialising in the Blackdown Hills based from Taunton town centre.

I am being joined by Euan Hankey whose family have lived in the Blackdowns since the 1920's. He has been working in Oxfordshire in estate agency for some time. Euan was educated in Taunton, gained a degree at Oxford Brookes in Business & Real Estate. Away from estate agency Euan has been furthering a bright career in motor sport.

**Euan is a real bonus to Rodgers South West. Our combined enthusiasm, with my experience and Euan's determination to succeed, will stand us out from the crowd.**

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- Links to London markets
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*Timothy Rodgers*  
Timothy Rodgers



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£750 pcm

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### Corfe

A pretty 4 bedroom unfurnished detached cottage situated in this popular village and is available on a six months plus tenancy. Garden and parking for 2 cars. Pets/children considered. Available mid August. Web Find: 56126

£750 pcm

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### Dunkeswell

Detached 3 bedroom lodge having undergone complete redecoration and refurbishment. Hall, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, utility, bathroom. Gardens. O.F.C.H. Available end May. Web Find: 50610

£800 pcm

Honiton 01404 42553



### Hemyock

2 Bedroom U/F well appointed bungalow situated in the popular Blackdowns village of Hemyock. Garden, garage and parking. EPC Band E. O.F.C.H. Pets and children considered. Available immediately. Web Find: 60480

£575 pcm

Taunton 01823 447355



### Yarcombe

Mid terrace 2 bedroom house situated within popular village. Sitting room, kitchen/diner, bathroom. Courtyard garden, parking. E.N.S.H. Pet/child considered. EPC Band D. Available immediately. Web Find: 50665

£550 pcm

Honiton 01404 42553



### Angersleigh

4 Bedroom U/F superbly appointed and presented detached barn conversion at the foot hills of the Blackdowns. Garden, parking, garage and carport. LPG C.H. EPC Band D. Available end of July Web Find: 32526

£1,500 pcm

Taunton 01823 447355



### Luppitt

Beautifully presented 4 bedroom house. 3 bathrooms, sitting room, dining room, office, hobby room, kitchen, utility room. Gardens. O.F.C.H. Pets/children considered. LET STR. EPC Band F. Web Find: 34127

£1,250 pcm

Honiton 01404 42553



### Uffculme

An attractive character 3/4 bedroom barn conversion in a rural location close to Uffculme School and the M5. Fitted kitchen/breakfast room. Utility. Sitting room. Dining bed. Study. Family bathroom & ensuite. Parking area. Garden. Pets/children considered. EPC Band C. Web Find: 33406

£900 pcm

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### Stockland

Detached bungalow set in rural location with stunning views. Conservatory, sitting/dining room, kitchen, utility, 2 bedrooms, bathroom. Storage, car port, parking, gardens. O.F.C.H. Pets/children considered. LET STR. Web Find: 59732

£750 pcm

Honiton 01404 42553



### Holcombe Rogus

A three bedroom semi detached cottage in a country position. Kitchen, sitting room, bathroom, shower room, OFCH, Garage, Workshop. Large garden. Pets/children considered. EPC Band F. Web Find: 41627

£710 pcm

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## Combe Raleigh

**5.8 Acres**

A Grade II listed 4 bedroom (2 en suite) characterful barn conversion with charming attached self-contained 2 bedroom cottage with 5.8 acres, smallholding, gardens and paddock. Open plan kitchen/living room and family bathroom. Stunning views. Web Find: 58577

Guide Price £600,000

Honiton 01404 45885



## Ashill

**1.3 Acres**

A 4 bed detached house with views over its garden, paddock & stream. Hall & WC, lounge, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, utility, 2 a/s, bathroom, double garage/workshop. EPC Band F. Web Find: 58052

Guide Price £535,000

Wellington 01823 662822



## Membury

A quintessential 4 bedroom cottage in a charming village with cottage gardens and double garage. Open plan sitting room, kitchen/breakfast room, 1 en suite & family bathroom. Cottage gardens, double garage & parking. EPC Band D. Web Find: 51185

Guide Price £430,000

Honiton 01404 45885



## Churchstanton

**0.6 Acres**

A two bedroom barn conversion with extensive outbuildings, mobile home and paddock. Kitchen/diner, sitting room, pantry/utility, 2 bedrooms & bathroom. Pole barn, range of stables. Gardens. EPC Band E. Web Find: 56118

Guide Price £285,000

Wellington 01823 662822



## Rawridge

**1.2 Acres**

A superbly presented detached barn conversion with spacious accommodation. 3 Reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast room, utility, 5 bedrooms, 3 a/s and family bathroom. 2 garages, gardens and grounds. IPP for double garage/workshop. Countryside views. EPC Band D. Web Find: 19559

Guide Price £650,000

Honiton 01404 45885



## Churchinford

A beautifully appointed five bedroom detached character house situated in the heart of this sought after village. Sitting room, dining room, study, breakfast room, kitchen, utility, shower room, 1 en suite & family bathroom. Walled garden & 2 storey barn. EPC Band F. Web Find: 40707

Guide Price £375,000

Wellington 01823 662822



## Yarcombe

A wonderful character 3 bedroom cottage with additional downstairs 4th bedroom/3rd reception room. Parking, outbuilding and garden with rural views. EPC Band F. Web Find: 50231

Guide Price £260,000

Honiton 01404 45885

## AUCTION



## Otterford

**3.6 Acres**

A productive pasture/enable field well fenced with road access and water. For sale by public auction on the 30th July. Web Find: 60521

Auction Guide Excess £25,000

Wellington 01823 662822

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Caroline Kiscock at Honiton: 01404 46086

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